

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amended claims follow:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for certifying that e-mail sent from a computer is free from viruses identified by an anti-virus database, the method comprising:

scanning an e-mail for viruses before ~~it~~the e-mail is sent from the computer;

attaching a certificate identifying the e-mail as being scanned for viruses if no viruses are found during scanning; and

sending the e-mail with the certificate from the computer to a recipient computer;

wherein the certificate includes a link to a web site describing the virus scanning performed on the e-mail by including a type and a version of a virus scanner utilized in scanning the e-mail for viruses, in addition to information for reading a digital signature added to the e-mail if no viruses are found.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the e-mail is created using a desktop mail application.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein sending the e-mail comprises sending the e-mail from a desktop computer.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein scanning the e-mail for viruses comprising scanning attachments contained within the e-mail.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein scanning the e-mail comprises automatically scanning the e-mail ~~when~~after a user sends the e-mail.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the computer is connected to the Internet.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising receiving the e-mail at a recipient computer.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising reading the digital signature with a digital signature verification application at the recipient computer and verifying that the e-mail has not been tampered with.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the computer is a network server.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein attaching the certificate comprises attaching the certificate at the server.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein scanning the e-mail for viruses comprises scanning the e-mail for viruses at the server.

14. – 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A system for certifying that e-mail sent from a computer is free from viruses identified by an anti-virus database, the system comprising:

an anti-virus application operable to scan e-mails;

a certification application operable to add a certificate to the e-mail identifying the e-mail as being scanned for viruses if no viruses are found during scanning; and

a storage medium configured to store the anti-virus database for use by the anti-virus application;

wherein the certificate includes a link to a web site describing the virus scanning performed on the e-mail by including a type and a version of the anti-virus application utilized in scanning the e-mail for viruses, in addition to information for reading a digital signature added to the e-mail if no viruses are found.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19 further comprising a processor operable to send the e-mail to a recipient computer.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the computer sending the e-mail and the recipient computer are desktop computers.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein one of the computer sending the e-mail and the recipient computer is a handheld computer.

23. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the computer sending the e-mail and the recipient computer are servers located within a computer network.

24. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the certificate contains only graphical images.

25. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the certificate contains graphics and text.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A computer product for certifying that e-mail sent from a computer is free from viruses identified by an anti-virus database, the product comprising:

computer code that scans an e-mail for viruses before ~~it~~the e-mail is sent from the computer;

computer code that attaches a certificate identifying the e-mail as being scanned for viruses if no viruses are found during scanning;

computer code that sends the e-mail with the certificate from the computer to a recipient computer; and

a computer readable medium that stores said computer codes;

wherein the certificate includes a link to a web site describing the virus scanning performed on the e-mail by including a type and a version of a virus scanner utilized in scanning the e-mail for viruses, in addition to information for reading a digital signature added to the e-mail if no viruses are found.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer product of claim 27 wherein the computer readable medium is selected from the group consisting of CD-ROM, floppy disk, tape, flash memory, system memory, and hard drive, ~~and a data signal embodied in a carrier wave.~~

29. (Original) The computer product of claim 27 further comprising computer code that cleans infected data.

30. – 33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A method for certifying that data transferred from a first computer to a recipient computer is free from viruses identified by an anti-virus database, the method comprising:

scanning data for viruses before ~~it~~the data is sent from the first computer;

attaching a certificate identifying said data as being scanned for viruses if no viruses are found during scanning; and

sending said data with the certificate from the first computer to a recipient computer;

wherein the certificate includes a link to a web site describing the virus scanning performed on the data by describing a type and a version of a virus scanner utilized in scanning the data for viruses, in addition to information for reading a digital signature added to the data if no viruses are found.

35. – 37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34 wherein scanning said data comprises automatically scanning said data ~~when~~after a user selects to send said data.

39. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein the first computer and the recipient computer are connected to the Internet.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4034 further comprising reading the digital signature with a digital signature verification application at the recipient computer and verifying that said data has not been tampered with.

42. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the certificate includes a company logo.

43. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the certificate includes an icon.

44. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the e-mail and at least one attachment is scanned for viruses.

45. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the virus scanner is incorporated within a mail application that is utilized in creating the e-mail.